

PROGRAMME UPDATE



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Fédération internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

SIERRA LEONE

28 December 2001

This Programme Update is intended for reporting on Annual Appeals.

Appeal No. 01.06/2001

Appeal Target: CHF 3,431,000 (revised in March 2001)

Programme Update No. 3; Period covered: July-November 2001; Previous Programme Updates issued: Programme Update no. 2 issued 4 July 2001; Programme Update no. 1 issued 16 March 2001

“At a Glance”

Appeal coverage: 85.6%

Related Appeals: 14/2001 - West and Central Africa: Meningitis

Outstanding needs: CHF 494,266

Update/Summary: With the continued positive developments in Sierra Leone in 2001, real hope exists for an end to the tragic conflict affecting the country. To fully support this the reestablishment of a civil society is vital, and the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society (SLRCS), with Federation support, has an important role to play in assisting with the re-establishment of basic rural health facilities, activating community-oriented programmes, and assisting war affected groups such ex-child combatants, amputees and remote rural communities. The re-establishment of the Red Cross volunteer network and the Red Cross branches also indicates a return of civilized society to the war affected population and forms an important platform for future assistance, particularly the fight against HIV/AIDS.

Operational Developments:

The steady improvement in the security situation seen in the first half of year 2001 continued, with the ongoing disarmament planned for completion by the end of the year under the supervision of the United Nation Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL). Already disarmament has been completed in most major areas like Kono (diamond area), Makeni (the rebels main town) and Kambia (bordering Guinea). The Government has also reestablished government functions such as police, health and security in the disarmed areas as well as taken on the security for most of the border areas towards Liberia and Guinea.

With less than 250 returnees arriving in Freetown (weekly) from Conakry on the IOM/UNHCR chartered boat, the expected major return of refugees and IDPs from Guinea to their place of origin, has not fully materialized. This hesitation in returning could be attributed to various factors, such as returnees awaiting the complete end of the rainy season and the harvesting of crops they have planted at their present location. Some refugees might also prefer an overland return that would allow them to bring back more personal belongings, and they therefore

are awaiting the official opening of the border or it simply represents a skepticism among the refugees, regarding the present peace process.

The potential of the ongoing conflict in Liberia spilling over into Sierra Leone, is also a very real threat although the presence of the 17,500 UNAMSIL peacekeeping force, a small deployment of British army troops and trainers and the 13,000 newly reestablished and re-equipped Sierra Leone army, presently limit the spill over effects.

With the complete end of the conflict still pending, the recovery of the private economic situation has not yet started, thereby not allowing the Government to generate the necessary funds to ensure the ongoing resettlement, rehabilitation and re-activation process. External assistance is therefore needed to ensure the ongoing process is implemented in a manner that promotes the stability of the still fragile peace process and ensures that the returning refugees and IDPs are settled in a sustainable way.



Disaster Response

The ICRC continued as the lead agency for the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement in Sierra Leone, responsible for the ongoing disaster response to the victims. In view of the positive development in the country and in order to ensure the continued good cooperation within the Movement in Sierra Leone, a two day workshop on the Seville Agreement were held end October with participation from all three partners of the Movement including representatives from the SLRCS Governance, Federation Regional Delegation and ICRC Geneva. During this Workshop, discussions were held on a possible transition stage, with the planned election on 14 May 2002 being considered the important hurdle to pass. It was agreed that if the election is not violently contested, discussions could then start on the practical arrangement for transition, with the SLRCS and Federation taking on some rehabilitation and resettlement projects targeting returning refugees and IDPs.



Returning refugees arriving in Freetown Harbor

Although on a lower scale up to 250 returning refugees continue to arrive in Freetown harbor weekly. The SLRCS and Federation supported this operation by having a mobile clinic at the arrival point. SLRCS volunteers trained under the disaster preparedness programme, also assisted when needed with transfer to the Government hospital and provide a simple meal to the returnees.

Disaster Preparedness

Objective 1 To upgrade skills of SLRCS staff and volunteers in disaster management.

In cooperation with ICRC and with assistance from the DPP delegate from the regional Federation office in Abidjan, a 4 days disaster and conflict preparedness workshop was held in October in Freetown for senior SLRCS staff. A 6-day disaster preparedness workshop was held for 26 Action Team leaders from Freetown, Bo, Kenema, Lungi, Bonthe Island, Matru Jong and Moyamba.

Objective 2 To co-ordinate with the ICRC and Federation in the provision of emergency stocks (comprising first aid materials, food and nonfood items and used clothes) and put in place procedures to guarantee an efficient response and distribution system.

An assistant Logistics Officer has been recruited. 15 SLRCS vehicles were provided with comprehensive First Aid kits including Red Cross aprons and flags. 4 First Aid posts in Rutile and Kambia were equipped with emergency stocks comprising first aid materials, aprons, flags, water containers, blankets and stretchers

Objective 3 To provide support to the National Society and branches in implementing DP programmes.

An additional 100 SLRCS volunteers received training in first aid, emergency preparedness and emergency health intervention in Moyamba, Lungi, Mile-91, Kambia and Rutile. Ten new action teams were established with these newly trained volunteers and the teams were provided with emergency stocks. Branch action plans were prepared for possible emergency response. Three VHF radio sets were installed in the Lungi, Port Loko and Kambia SLRCS offices, linking them to the SLRCS and the Federation radio network, now ensuring all operational branches and one RC group direct radio contact with SLRCS headquarters. In addition, 5 SLRCS and Federation vehicles have mobile HF and VHF radios.

Objective 4 To promote food security activities.

The collaboration with the ICRC continued within this activity.

Objective 5 To cooperate and collaborate with ICRC, Federation, other International Organizations, NGOs, Government Ministries and National Societies in the sub region for better networking.

The SLRCS / Federation assistance to returning refugees from Conakry, Guinea continued at their arrival by the UNHCR/IOM chartered boat in Freetown. Although the influx of returnees decreased due to the reduction in number of ship arrivals, a total of 7,572 were assisted during the reporting period. SLRCS volunteers Weekend activities continued at the First Aid Post of Lumley beach with 172 injured persons being treated during the reporting period.

Humanitarian Values

Objective 1 To place at least 60 more amputees in permanent jobs (JAWA).

Since the start of the year, the project has succeeded in placing a total of 14 amputees in permanent jobs. This is below the target figure and can be attributed to lack of jobs available due to the economy still in its initial restart phase and few employers with capacity to absorb more handicapped staff. It is hoped that initiatives in Bo and Kenema might lead to identification of some additional jobs, but the planning figure will probably not be reached for this year, consequently reducing the planning figure in the 2002 plans to 30.

Objective 2 To expand the micro loan scheme to additional 100 amputees (JAWA).

At total of 86 amputees benefited from the micro credit scheme this year. With plans to introduce micro credit in Kenema in December month, we expect to reach the planned 100 beneficiaries. Micro-loans are given to the amputees to enable them start self employment operations like selling of rice, palm oil, sugar, kerosene, wood, slippers, cooking items and meals and the success can be determined by their capability to repay the loans. Since the start of the programme a total of 146 amputees have benefited from the micro credit scheme, receiving a total of 20,590,000 SLL in loans and by end November have paid back 13,021,000 SLL, a reimbursement ratio of 63%.

Objective 3 To identify and place 100 amputees in skill training positions (JAWA).

Fifteen amputees started skill training in tailoring in Kenema at the beginning of the year in addition to the 23 already undergoing tailoring training in Freetown, Bo and Lungi. Tuition fees and sewing machines are provided, and upon successful completion of the 18 month training course, the machines becomes the property of the amputee, enabling them to start their own business. The first group of 21 tailoring students will graduate in December this year. The constraints in reaching the planned target for 2001, have been the lack of alternative

training opportunities, as many of the amputees' disabilities do not enable them to work as tailors. The literacy level of the amputees has also restricted their training opportunities, where training in secretarial services, administration and other business related topics demand some educational background. Amputees with the necessary education have opted for job placement instead.

Objective 4 To resettle back into their communities minimum 10 amputees with family presently staying at the Murrey Amputee camp (JAWA).

Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) has taken on the task of constructing houses for amputees, with the first 100 houses already available. Their ultimate goal to offer permanent accommodation for all the amputees in the Murray camp. In view of this it was decided to cancel this element of the JAWA program to avoid duplication among the agencies assisting the amputees. The programme budget was revised accordingly in June.

Objective 5 To advocacy on behalf of amputees and other handicap groups for public support and understanding (JAWA).

The amputee drama group made another play which was televised two times on the national television station. Jingles continued to be aired weekly on the F.M. Stations in Freetown, Bo and Kenema, explaining the plight of the amputees and advocating for assistance in reintegrating them back into the society, including the provision of permanent jobs. Not only does this publicity raise an awareness on the plight of the amputees, it also profiles Sierra Leone Red Cross, both towards the public and the Government members and officials.

Summary table for JAWA:

	2000	2001	July to November 2001				Total
	Feb-Dec	Jan-June	Freetown	Lungi	Bo	Kenema	
Jobs	43	12	2	-	-	-	57
Tailoring	23	-	-	-	-	15	38
Gara Dye	10	-	-	-	-	-	10
Micro Credit	60	51	10	5	20	-	146
Total	136	63	12	5	20	15	251

Objective 6 To strengthen family ties and social community cohesion (CAPS).

Over 80 percent of original inhabitants who have not died or been recruited have returned to all the CAPS communities. The CAPS communities are in Bo and Moyamba districts, formerly CDF territory before the demobilization process was completed earlier this year. The CAPS Animators are working with the CAPS Community Peace Consolidation Committees (CPCC) to assist with the integration of the returnees and preparation for the return and ideally the reconciliation of those who played a role with the fighting forces (CDF/ RUF/ AFRC). Many discussions with community members have followed the radio broadcasts about the demobilization process, the talks on peace building and reconciliation, the upcoming elections etc. Formal meetings have taken place with community leaders, the CPCC and Animators to discuss the impact on the families and communities of those returning from the fighting forces, their intentions on peace building, conditions for their acceptance, the process and activities to receive them, and who should be involved.

Ten reconciliation cases of ex-combatants and those abducted took place in nine separate communities. All were successful in that the families and communities accepted them back, and they were reintegrated into the established communal work groups and other activities of the communities. The processes involved the CAPS Animator and Supervisor, the families, CPCC and the community leaders and took in some cases several days and others several weeks. It involved much negotiation between the families, the leaders and the ex-combatant, hearing the stories of the people affected, issuing formal apologies to the community at large or individuals, performance of cultural rites, an announcement to the community of the acceptance of the individual and sensitization on peace building. More ex-combatants are expected as the demobilization process progresses throughout the country.

The number of conflicts erupting in violence has reduced, the level of tolerance has increased together with problem-solving. Instead of resorting to physical violence as a first reaction, the parties are engaging in talking and calling for the intervention of the Animator and the CPCC to assist them in resolution.

As a result of CAPS animation and material inputs, singing, dance, drama performances and soccer games are now a regular part of community life in comparison to the start of the program where it was nonexistent. All these activities attract the entire community's participation. The community organizers have been reaching out and inviting neighboring communities to their events. Sports meetings and peace festivals have been organized. The high participation in organization, participation and attendance are indicators of the increasing good will, sense of safety, normalcy and optimism returning to people in the community.

Women's groups of four communities banded together and requested the help of the CPCC to organize a peace festival in recognition of the completed disarmament that took place in those communities. It will be held in the latter half of December.

Objective 7 To de-traumatise vulnerable individuals and reintegrate them into their communities (CAPS).

The reconciliation did not only involve ex-combatants but those who may have been abducted and forced to perform roles as laborers, sex slaves etc. These individuals are often stigmatized upon their return. Song, dance performances and storytelling are performed every night to enable members of the communities express their stories and emotions. The drama performances assist people with ideas on how to move forward in forgiveness and reconciliation. A drama competition will be held in four communities on the themes of forgiveness and reconciliation. The communities will decide what performances and messages are most relevant to them.

A second level three day training workshop is planned to further prepare the Community Peace Consolidation Committees (CPCC) to lead and manage conflict resolution, peace building and reconciliation roles and activities in their respective communities and in readiness for their Animator's exit expected in June 2002. A three-day workshop has been developed to address these and other topics that affect their development. The workshops will take place in each of the four chiefdoms and will be held in December and early January. Meetings are planned with the Animators prior to these sessions to discuss how to jointly plan with their communities for their exit, to discuss strategies to best achieve complete ownership and direction for the CAPS program, and to increase the Animators capacity for results based reporting.

Objective 8 To improve sustainable living standards for the whole community (CAPS).

All the communities have completed the construction of a food and seed store. There has been an abundant harvest of swamp rice and vegetables. Unfortunately, the donated groundnut seedlings flowered but did not produce any groundnuts. They have been plowed under and information will be passed on to the donor. The stores enabled the gardening and farming groups to preserve their seeds for next planting and to have enough food for hungry season. Each of the Animators sensitized these groups on how to reduce wastage and obtain a higher yield through various methods.

Animation is taking place on a day-to-day basis to help the community recognize their resources and to solve their own needs. Several communities organized their work groups to build a school. The CAPS program assisted by providing temporary roofing, and plastic sheeting until the community could afford more permanent materials. The Animators also assisted the community to link with other NGOs with school materials.

Skills training activities has begun in 15 communities. Master craftspeople are selected by community members to conduct training in carpentry, gara-dyeing, bread-baking, soap-making, and tailoring. The target groups to benefit include ex-combatants, war widows, single mothers and women's groups. The CAPS program provides a one time supply of basic tools and start up implements so that training is carried on. The trainees contribute a nominal amount in cash or in kind to the instructor. Products made during the training are sold and profits are returned to cover costs. The length of each skill area varies from 18 months for tailoring to 1 month for bread-baking and takes place at least twice a week. In this initial phase, 348 individuals have benefited.

Objective 9 To strengthen social awareness and good governance in the communities (CAPS). Focal group discussions have been organized in each community to discuss important topical issues. The disarmament process, the unfolding steps for the upcoming May elections including voter registration, constituency versus block voting, women representation have been some of the issues actively debated. ICRC and SLRCS dissemination teams have been conducting IHL sessions for community leaders in CAPS communities.

An evaluation of the CAPS program took place in June and July. From the evaluative workshops, some key accomplishments and directions for the way forward were achieved. The inputs of agricultural seeds and tools, construction kits, provision of instruments and costumes for cultural dances, singing and other performances, footballs, wind-up radios, micro-credit loans, materials for literacy classes have contributed to an increase in self-reliance and development in the communities.

The animators have been successful in facilitating the different dividing elements that prevent the communities from cooperating together. As a result, adult and youth work groups have been formed to assist in building homes for each other, communal structures and roads, farming and doing community clean-ups, as well as engaging in business with the support of micro-credit. All communities have revitalized dance, singing and drama groups to engage in sensitization activities and to celebrate various cultural activities and rites. The animators are called upon to assist with and very often lead reconciliation and conflict resolution sessions among community members, and more so with returnees and ex-combatants.

When asked how much longer they needed an animator in their communities, they indicated an additional 8 months to 2 years. The additional time was stated so that animators can train and empower the Community Peace Consolidation Committees to take on a more central role in mediation, monitoring and planning for their communities, and to strengthen community leaders planning, envisioning and development abilities and perspectives, and their know-how to access available resources at the NGO and government levels. Also, to work with community leaders and groups to establish systems and mechanisms to foster greater community participation particularly by women and youth, and observance of practices and approaches that contribute to conflict and gradually develop new ones that enable people to understand each other's interests and needs so that more effective resolutions can be achieved. These insights have formed the basis of the animators facilitation work from July to the present.



Objective 10 To de-traumatise 100 children, raise their dignity and strengthen their family ties (CAR).

The case management process began in May. Each of the 10 Activist were assigned 10 youth to observe. Parents reported they have observed positive changes in behavior from being withdrawn and hostile, to being motivated and engaging. Overall, the comments from the youth have been about how much they have learned and changed, and this is strongly echoed by their families. All families report that there is greater cooperation and understanding at home.

The level of hostility and aggression has dropped completely. At the beginning, there was much swearing, provoking, fighting, talking back, threatening behavior amongst the children toward each other and toward the staff. This has changed significantly to where skill training groups are working cooperatively and cohesively. In fact, many of the youth who live near each other intend to form work groups to pursue production in their skill area.

The graduation of this first group took place Saturday, December 8th. The intention is to do follow up for at least six months. The first two months will entail weekly visits to ensure that start up kits are being used for their

intended purpose, that is, to assist in getting a micro-enterprise together, further their apprenticeship opportunities, and/or participate in further training with vocational center.

Out of 110 children regularly participating in the Center 86 of them and 74 parents and caregivers attended the first parent teacher meeting. There has been over 5 meetings since that time in their communities and at the center to discuss issues relating to the following three areas :

Sensitizing the parents to support the return of their 10 to 12 year olds back to school. The Ministry of Education changed their policy to say that school fees are being waived up to class 6 not just up to class 3. All the



parents of the nineteen 10 to 12 year olds agreed to have their children return to school. However, there were still expenses beyond the means of the parents. An agreement was struck whereby the program would pay for the school administrative expenses and provide some school supplies and the parents would provide the uniforms.

Follow up, monitoring and support plans of the children after completion of program. The CAR staff will follow up for at least 6 months (or longer depending on circumstances), monthly meetings will be called for the youth to share their experiences and concerns, and they will be invited to lead or engage in discussions with the new participants. However, it was emphasized that the greater responsibility lies with the parents and communities. As a result, the parents have formed a group to monitor and support CAR youth.

Use of the start up kits. These start up kits are meant to assist the youth to begin their own enterprise or help them become employable. An agreement form needs to be signed by the parents and youth clarifying that they are not for sale. The Activists have been meeting with the youth and their parents to develop plans for their next steps, post-graduation. Meetings are scheduled with the youth and their parents after graduation to receive the kits, finalize plans, and sign the Agreement forms.

The parents and community leaders have been encouraged to drop by the center to see their children and the activities of the center. Over fifty percent of the parents have dropped by informally and expressed their surprise and satisfaction in seeing their children being well-behaved and productive.

Objective 11 To promote Child Advocacy and reintegration into the communities (CAR).

Nearly all the children have been living with family members from the start of the program. In all cases, family relationships have improved. Those that have been living in the IDP camps will be rejoining their families in their home locations once the program ends. There are 2 or 3 who are living with families of friends as tracing of their families continues .

When there is a need, the Advocacy Officer and/or a delegated staff visits each of the seven community leaders, and attends meetings that they are invited to at least twice a month or more. There was hesitancy particularly at the time of the survey in terms of what could be accomplished. They had experiences of NGOs conducting assessments and never seeing them again. They are impressed by the level of follow up that takes place with them and the families of the children. The rapport and cooperation are very good, and they have been called upon to assist with matters that affect the reintegration of CAR children.

A CAR parent group known as the Community Teachers Association has been formed. It is made up of parent representatives from each operational area, one community leader and a CAR staff. The parents formed the group for the purpose of working with staff to continue the monitoring and support of the CAR children. They have had two meetings mainly to coordinate parent involvement with the graduation. The parents had agreed to

provide food for the occasion and for their guests. A Terms of Reference (ToR) for the committee will be developed by January.

Nineteen 10 to 12- year olds were enrolled into formal school. Most have never been to school before or during the war. The routine of the CAR center, the counseling, the subjects (literacy and numeracy, health and hygiene, in particular) offered a foundation for their integration into regular school.

Family members of each CAR youth's family and leaders from each of their operational communities attended the graduation function on December 8th. All expressed their gratitude for the opportunity, for the changes the program has made in their child's and family's lives, and the hard work of the staff.

Objective 12 To engage beneficiaries in educational and skill training activities (CAR).

The remaining eighty-seven 13-18 year olds completed their theory and practical work. Oral and practical exams were given to test their knowledge and skill mastery after completion of each learning section and at the end of the year. The brick-building, block-laying and concreting (BBC) completed the construction of the kitchen/store, which was their practical project, very well. The tailoring class sewed their graduation outfits. The gara tie dyeing and soap-making class completed production of different dyeing and batik techniques, fabric design, and soap types made from different raw materials. On December 8th, all 87 participants received graduation certificates for successful completion of all components of the CAR program.

Actions are in place to link them to their next steps. Staff Activists have been meeting with them individually and in their skill group to map out plans for their next steps. Each member will be receiving a start up kit of tools, equipment and materials to allow them to begin (all CAR children came from destitute circumstances that were only worsened by the war). The families/caregivers involved in the planning, will be present when their kits are received, and they and their child must sign an agreement form to use the kits for their intended purpose. The kits vary. For tailoring, it includes a sewing machine, scissors, tape measure, and other materials. For BBC, the construction tool kit would include hammers, shovels, head pans, trowels, molds, etc.. Soap-making and gara tie dyeing include the soap-making barrels, large plastic bowls, thermometers, needles and thread for example. Follow ups will be carried out by the staff weekly for the first two months, then twice a month for at least six months. The parent group monitoring is to be determined.

Objective 13 To promote recreational, cultural and social activities in order to facilitate healing through play for 100 children by the end of 2001 (CAR).

Weekly soccer games have been organized since September with Waterloo and area school and institutional teams, along with the continuing in house games. Each skill area has their own team and there are boys and girls teams. There has been enthusiastic participation and strong community attendance at the games (minimum 200 people). Additional activities have been introduced including volleyball and table tennis.

Objective 14 To improve the economic status of the child's biological or foster parents (CAR).

The need was to get the other components of the program well-rooted before introducing this new element. Strong parental and community structures for accountability purposes need to be in place. Those structures are in the formative stages. The implementation of this component will be proposed in January. A review of this pilot phase of the program from the registration to the program content and methodologies will take place in the latter half of December with the staff, parents and youth. The aim is to document lessons learned, successes, review the circumstances in the community and make any necessary changes for the new recruits and the proposed expansion to new areas.

Objective 15 To increase the Community awareness of the Convention of the Right of the Child, the International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights.

Core drama and singing groups have been formed among the CAR children. With the Activists, they have developed and performed skits on the CRC as part of in-house events to parents, community leaders and other NGO guests. The intention is to have performances in the community beginning in February. The staff and CAR youth have participated in a number of forums and workshops that were community and/or national focussed on peace building, reintegration, reconciliation and development. Every opportunity is taken by staff to sensitize community leaders of the mandate and role of Red Cross ideals and principles. Planning with the Information Department will be taking place to target Waterloo and area for IHL dissemination sessions.

Health and Care

Objective 1 To sensitize and mobilize communities, to be aware of their role and responsibilities in reducing their exposure to health risks, thereby limiting the morbidity and mortality rates in the SLRCS operational areas.

Drama groups in seven branches have conducted twice monthly performances, one for school children and one street performance. Peer educators have also carried out street campaigns addressing health issues in the seven branches. The weekly radio program “Red Cross in Sierra Leone” continued in Freetown as well as a monthly broadcast was carried out in Kenema and Bo.



Youth peer educators and community volunteers under the supervision of the Branch Health Officers, have sensitized communities on safe motherhood, healthy pregnancies, breast feeding, immunization, and improved environmental sanitation, including prevention and treatment of diarrhea. The Kenema Branch has carried out a prevention and control programme for Lassa fever in the endemic areas including distribution of rat traps. Growth monitoring of children under fives have been carried out at all 10 operative SLRCS health clinics including immunization against basic preventable diseases.

Health talks proceed clinic activities and have reached over 121,000 beneficiaries between January and October of this year. The most common topics have been control of infectious diseases, nutrition and reproductive health.

Objective 2 To reduce the spread of infectious diseases through improved sanitation.

An assessment was carried out in three districts, which identified eight vulnerable communities within the CBHP and CAPS operational areas. 200 two drop holes community VIP latrines are presently being constructed in these eight communities, with an average of 24 beneficiaries to one household latrine. Material was purchased for the construction of the three wells. Fabrication of form works (molds) for reinforced latrine slap casting and latrine vent blocks were completed. On the job training of community volunteers in correct chlorinating of wells were successfully carried out by the SLRCS Wat/San engineer. Some 3,500 wells were chlorinated in close collaboration with UNICEF and the Ministry of Health.

Objective 3 To increase the capacity of the communities to address minor accidents and ailments.

In the first nine month of this year, three day First Aid refresher courses were carried out for 120 community volunteers. Ten Cholera preparedness courses were held for 200 participants in depressed areas, including the previously inaccessible Kambia district, where a cholera outbreak occurred in 2000. Simple cholera prevention kits were supplied to the participants. Four fee paying First Aid courses have been given to private business (shipping), NGOs and government groups. 20 new First Aiders were trained in the newly accessible Kambia district. 40 First Aid kits were prepared and distributed to six CBHP areas.

Objective 4 To provide primary health care service to target beneficiaries in ten branches and two groups.

Essential medication as specified in the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society essential drug list are being supplied free of charge on a continued basis from the 9 SLRCS clinics and one emergency camp clinic in the 8

operational branches. During the second and third quarters of 2001 a total of 63,253 patients were treated at these clinics of which 32,825 (51%) were children below the age of 5, and 6,658 were ante natal cases. All Branch Health Officers and clinic nurses use the Sierra Leone “ Essential Drug Manual for Community Health Workers” including the treatment guidelines. All health staff also attended a workshop on “Integrated Management of Childhood Illness.” Staff education sessions were carried out at all clinics. Monitoring regarding administration of essential drugs, growth monitoring, ante-natal visits and adherence to standards was conducted. Regional Health Committees consisting of 10 members representing different community groups have been established in all branches and hold regular quarterly meetings to view and advise on program implementation. In addition a Central Health Committee meeting was held at the SLRCS headquarters to review community input on the 2001 ongoing programme. As a result, reproductive education for branch health officers are being planned.

Objective 5 To reduce the infant and maternal mortality rate in the SLRCS operational areas.

The original plans to train and equip 500 new TBAs cannot be achieved this year partly due to the introduction of the new manual with a new 30 days training module and partly to a three month educational leave by the National Training Officer. Plans are underway to train 150 new TBAs in January 2002. Instead the objective of conducting refresher courses for 120 TBAs was exceeded, with seven refresher courses with a total of 210 TBAs retrained and resupplied with TBA kits to ensure safe and clean deliveries.

Objective 6 To reduce the incidence of vaccine preventable diseases by increasing immunization coverage in SLRCS operational areas by 20% by December 2001.

In the first three quarters immunization of under fives were carried out at 6 clinics and a total of 18,138 doses of vaccine against 6 vaccine preventable diseases were administered. In addition a total of 6796 doses of tetanus vaccine were administered to pregnant women and women of child bearing age. The under five immunization actually decreased when compared to the 19,542 doses administered during the first three quarters of last year, while the attendance of under fives were slightly higher. The decrease is attributed to a higher coverage of vaccination achieved, with the result that many of the children now attending clinics have already received the necessary vaccinations. Branch Health Officers are now reviewing the activity to ensure that children are immunized either at SLRCS, NGO or Government clinics. Immunization of women of childbearing age have increased by 12.5% over the same period last year. The Sierra Leone Red Cross Society took on the full responsibility for this year’s polio rounds in October and November in two chiefdoms in Port Loko District as well as the community sensitization in a third chiefdom. The areas covered were particularly challenging, as part of it only recently had become accessible as well as containing a large number of IDPs. The first round of October visits were made to 11,298 houses and a total of 39,199 children were immunized. This represented more than 100% of the estimated under fives which is attributed to the big influx of IDPs and returning refugees in the area covered. The polio campaign for all of West Africa was actually launched in one of the chiefdoms covered by SLRCS and the launching was done by the heads of states from Mali, Nigeria and Sierra Leone during which the SLRCS coordinator assisted the head of states in administrating the first vaccinations.



In the second round in November a total of 11,058 houses were visited and a total of 35,911 children immunized, this was 3,000 less than the October round, and is attributed to the start of the move back to their place or origin of IDPs and returning refugees, which had been temporarily settled in the area. Despite this the coverage was again well over the 100% mark, and the highest coverage in the country.

Objective 7 To create awareness amongst high risk groups on STDs and HIV/AIDS in SLRCS operational areas.

The HIV/AIDS prevention message continued in the weekly/monthly SLRCS radio broadcasts on three stations country wide. The radio program also advocate for the need sand care of people infected with HIV/AIDS as well as support to their families.

The 130 trained peer educators covering seven active branches, continued their weekly outreach activities for youth in or out of school. A one-day symposium was organized for school peer educators while 45 link teachers contributed their experience during regular classes. A two week training course was held for 40 youth peer educators, to act as trainers of trainees.

A one day seminar was conducted for commercial sex workers in Freetown, to create awareness on HIV/AIDS and prevention in this high risk group. Plans are underway to train some of the commercial sex workers as peer educators. SLRCS has now trained and equipped with costumes and musical instruments seven peer educator drama groups, one in each operational branch. AIDS related plays are performed twice monthly in schools and in the community, which is followed by condom distribution.

Objective 8 To enhance the capacity of staff and volunteers in programme management.

The CBHP coordinator and the National Training Officer attended the sixth regional surveillance team meeting in Abidjan in April, which focused on expanded HIV/AIDS program, RC procedures for disease surveillance during epidemics and reproductive health. The National Training Officer attended “Public Health in Complex Emergencies” in Ghana for 3 weeks. The Branch Health Officers for Bo and Kambia attended the Health Emergencies for Large Populations course (HELP) in South Africa in November. A WS for branch health officers was held in December.

Objective 9 To intensify expanded sensitization programme on the control and prevention of Lassa fever.

Expanded community sensitization with radio and street campaigns continued with six volunteers visiting the affected areas, giving health talks and emphasizing on the need for a clean environment to reduce risk. In the second quarter community volunteers and youth carried out street campaigns, with additional 30 volunteers trained in September. Beside street campaigns, radio discussions on Lassa fever prevention and environmental sanitation intensified, encouraging a clean environment in order to destroy the breeding places for the long nosed rat, known as the carrier of the virus.

Objective 10 To improve and promote the nutritional status of the most vulnerable in SLRCS operational areas by 30% by December 2001.

All pregnant and lactating women are given free folic acid and iron supplement at the SLRCS clinics to prevent anemia, one of the main causes of the high maternal mortality in Sierra Leone. A total of 10,921 visits by pregnant women were recorded in the first three quarters of the year at the 10 operational SLRCS clinics. Malnourished children in Bo continued to receive supplementary feeding at the SLRCS clinics in partnership with WFP. Bonthe clinic also started supplementary feeding of malnourished children, in partnership with the Ministry of Health, while other clinics refer malnourished children to NGO feeding centers in their area.

The SLRCS trained TBAs are used to convey messages for pregnant mother on how to obtain a balanced diet using locally available vegetables and other food. Community volunteers use the ARCHI tool kit on child diseases to sensitize their communities on the importance of growth monitoring. All SLRCS clinics carried out growth monitoring of all children under five visiting the clinics, with a total of 25,353 visits recorder for the first three quarters. Children below the recommended weight or loosing weight, are followed-up by return visits at home or with supplementary feeding given either at the clinic or referred to a feeding center. Backyard gardens continue to produce vegetables with micro credits provided last year, thereby producing an important nutritious supplement to the food available. Some community groups also benefit from selling part of the produced vegetables.

Institutional and Resource Development

Objective 1 To reestablish the SLRCS provincial branches and membership base.

New Red Cross groups were formed in Kenema, Moyamba, Port Loko and Bonthe districts. Gbangbatoke Group were launched early November 2001. Port Loko branch, that was temporarily relocated in Lungi, has been moved back to its original place - Port Loko Town. Bombali and Kambia Branches have been reopened, bringing the number of reactivated branches to 8 out of 10 (Magburaka and Kono is still to be reactivated).



Objective 2 To recruit more members, especially women and increase the retention rate.

Enrollment of new members took place in Bo, Moyamba, Mile91 and Kenema district with a total of 322 new members of which 141 were female, enrolled since May 2001. Information and dissemination seminars on the Movement were held for traditional leaders in Bo, Port Loko, Moyamba and Kenema, in order to encourage a wider membership base.

Objective 3 To strengthen human resources and the organizational structure.

Senior Management of Regional Branch Field officers participated in a 2 day Workshop on the Seville agreement in October. An Administrator and a Coordinator for Humanitarian programs were employed. Support was given to finance staff to pursue a degree in accountancy. With Federation support, the Central Committee of SLRCS meet in Bo, the first such meeting outside Freetown and a clear indicator as to the ongoing effort to give more attention to the branches.

Objective 4 To strengthen the financial and material resources of the Society.

The fund raising center in Freetown was temporary closed and all staff laid off, as it was realized that the amount raised did not match the input. A restructuring process is presently ongoing and it is expected that a new and more efficient fund raising center will reopen in December, initially limiting its activities to the sale of used clothes. The construction and opening of Branch Offices in Port Loko and Kambia was completed. The ground floor of the Kenema building was completed with space for the Branch Office, Clinic and warehouse and the Branch office and clinic was moved to the new locality. The clinic building in Bonthe was rebuilt in order to accommodate the new branch office and a 5-year lease paid. The Society started the construction of a new building in Freetown, to house the western Area branch, using funds generated by the income generation center. A full completion of this building will depend on additional outside assistance. The new Humanitarian Coordinator in SLRCS participated in a 5-week fund raising tour of Canada together with the Social Welfare Delegate. This gave him a valuable insight in international fund raising, an important area for ensuring future self-sufficiency of the Society.

Objective 5 To improve planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting procedures.

Monthly and quarterly reports was prepared by all departments with in the SLRCS. The Assistant OD coordinator and the Statistician attended a Strategic Planning WS. The OD Coordinator attended a one week Planning work shop.

Coordination and Management

Objective 1 To assist the SLRCS in reestablishing their branch network and effectively manage their programs.

The Kambia and Port Loko branches were reestablished including the employment of a field officer and election of local Governance. The Makeni branch is in the process of being fully reestablished and is expected to be completed by the end of this year, when it is planned the present ICRC support is taken over by the Federation.

Objective 2 To enhance the capacity of the finance department of the SLRCS.

A local computer consultant (Memory Masters Information Technology Ltd.) did a preliminary survey of the existing capacity and needs of SLRCS finance department. The external auditors were also involved in the survey. We are still awaiting the findings of this survey before deciding on further action. Finance staff have received computer training by the in-house employed computer consultant, in preparation for the introduction of a new computerized accounting package.

Objective 3 To assist SLRCS to establish an efficient and cost conscious logistic department.

A new position as assistant logistics officer was created and discussions presently ongoing as to identifying a qualified candidate with the necessary computer and logistics knowledge to be able to establish a data base on reliable and reasonable price suppliers as well as to take on the responsibility of warehouse management.

Objective 4 To help SLRCS to upgrade their computer capability.

The in-house computer training continued with weekly classes. The full time computer assistant is available for individual training and assistance on a daily basis. The national society was assisted in the purchase and importation of 5 new computers, funded by the Empress Shoken fund.

Objective 5 To ensure correct and proper reporting to donors, both narrative and financial.

Three Programme Updates have been prepared for this year. Monthly informal reports are issued. Detailed financial reports have been prepared on request to donors. The Delegation is reporting online using the CODA financial reporting system.

Objective 6 To revise the Country Assistance Strategy for the SLRCS.

An initial draft of the future strategy for the SLRCS has been prepared as the first step towards the CAS. The next step is the posting of an Organizational Development delegate early next year, who will be responsible for to the preparation of a new CAS with input from all relevant sources.

Outstanding needs

85.6% of the appeal has been covered by the end of December, leaving a gap of CHF 494,266 for full implementation in 2001.

For further details please contact: Anne Kirsti Vartdal, Phone: 41 22 730 4485; Fax: 41 22 733 03 95; email: vartdal@ifrc.org

All International Federation Operations seek to adhere to the Code of Conduct and are committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (SPHERE Project) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

For further information concerning Federation operations in this or other countries, please access the Federation website at <http://www.ifrc.org>.

Peter Rees-Gildea
Head a.i.
Relationship Management Department

Bekele Geleta
Head
Africa Department

Sierra Leone						ANNEX 1
APPEAL No. 01.06/2001		PLEDGES RECEIVED				21.12.2001
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
CASH						TOTAL COVERAGE
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				3'431'000		85.6%
CASH CARRIED FORWARD				216'366		
AMERICAN - GOVT/PRM		400'000	USD	685'280	23.04.2001	
BRITISH - RC		20'000	GBP	48'200	05.02.2001	SLRC COMMUNITY ANIMATION & PEACE SUPPORT PROG.
BRITISH - RC		20'000	GBP	48'200	05.02.2001	CHILD ADVOCACY & REHAB PROG.
BRITISH - RC		10'000	GBP	24'100	05.02.2001	DELEGATION CORE COSTS
BRITISH - RC		60'000	GBP	144'600	16.02.2001	CBHP
BRITISH - RC		35'000	GBP	87'330	14.05.2001	HEALTH & CARE
BRITISH - RC		46'729	GBP	116'280	26.07.2001	HEALTH & CARE
CANADIAN - GOVT/RC		71'000	CAD	76'858	25.01.2001	C. B. HEALTH, INSTITUTIONAL, BRANCH DEVELOPMENT, COORDIN. & MGT COSTS
CANADIAN - RC		115'000	CAD	124'488	28.03.2001	COMMUNITY ANIMATION
CANADIAN - RC		30'000	CAD	32'946	17.05.2001	TBA PROGRAM
DANISH - RC		370'000	DKK	73'593	11.10.2001	
DANISH - GOVT		21'025	DKK	4'182	23.10.2001	
NORWEGIAN - GOVT/RC		1'500'000	NOK	285'098	08.08.2001	OD, COORDINATION & MGT, DISASTER PREPAREDNESS, HEALTH
NORWEGIAN - GOVT/RC		500'000	NOK	92'736	13.11.2001	CBPH AND HIV/AIDS
PRIVATES		50	USD	84	02.10.2001	
SWEDISH - RC		5'900	SEK	1'025	28.02.2001	PSC, USED CLOTHES
SWEDISH - RC		200'000	SEK	34'740	28.02.2001	HEALTH AND CARE
SWEDISH - RC		150'000	SEK	26'055	28.02.2001	INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT
SWEDISH - RC		100'000	SEK	17'370	28.02.2001	CO-ORDINATION & MANAGEMENT
SWEDISH - RC		100'000	SEK	17'370	28.02.2001	DISASTER PREPAREDNESS
SWEDISH - GOVT		600'000	SEK	101'940	21.05.2001	INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT
SWEDISH - GOVT		250'000	SEK	42'475	21.05.2001	CARP
SWEDISH - GOVT		150'000	SEK	25'485	21.05.2001	DISASTER PREPAREDNESS
SWEDISH - GOVT		800'000	SEK	135'920	21.05.2001	HEALTH & CARE
SWEDISH - GOVT		150'000	SEK	25'485	21.05.2001	CO-ORDINATION & MANAGEMENT
SWISS - GOVT				160'910	23.02.2001	FIRST AID EMERGENCY PREP, C. B. HEALTH, EXTENSION OF CLINIC
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				2'649'116	CHF	77.2%
KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
BRITISH RC	DELEGATE			75'071		C.Tokar (2000) PMN 12032
DANISH RC	DELEGATE			59'959		
DANISH - GOVT		420'500	DKK	83'637	23.10.2001	MEDICIN, FREIGHT & INSURANCE
FINLAND RC	DELEGATE			40'575		
NORWEGIAN RC	DELEGATE			11'006		
SWEDISH - RC		100'000	SEK	17'370	28.02.01	20 TONS USED CLOTHES
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				287'618	CHF	8.4%
ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED				0	CHF	
THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS ARE LINKED TO THIS APPEAL:						
PSL011, PSL101, PSL161, PSL301, PSL401						